

From Pastor Jim's Desk: **"Aged or Ageless?"**

I didn't feel particularly well this past week. My body ached, and I had a few pains in my neck and shoulders. I had an EMG test this week, which showed a pinched nerve in my neck area. While I haven't yet seen the Doctor to find out what to do about it, it all reminded me of the fact, yes, I'll say it: I am getting older.

All round us in our society there seems to be a frantic search for *The Fountain of Youth*. Hair rinses, clothing styles, cosmetics, exercise programs, diets – all seek to deny the passing of years and maintain a youthful appearance and youthful vigor.

A child of God need neither regret nor deny passing through the various stages of life from childhood to old age. We know that each period has its own merits and blessings. And we surely know that God is with us in each of them. To those who are becoming what we euphemistically call "senior citizens" God says, **"Even to your old age, I am He; even to your gray hairs will I carry you. I have made you and I will carry you and will deliver you."** (Isaiah 46:4) From cradle to grave, God show us His great love.

Every human being wants and needs the love of others. Children want the love of their parents; parents want the love of their children. One of the blessings of advancing age is a growing appreciation of the love of those who are near and dear to us. Little deeds of kindness are cherished more than ever before.

A small, thoughtful gift, occasional phone calls, an unexpected visit, a newsy letter – all bring great joy to aging parents. Such communication gives children the opportunity to express their thanks to parents for the patient training and religious instruction that have been instrumental in directing them away from paths of shame and disgrace and have placed them on the way to spiritual security and productive living. A few words of gratitude often brings tears of joy to parents in their old age – but such words really don't have to be saved for that time in their lives.

The crowning joy of *aging* Christians is to know that by faith in Christ they really are *ageless*. Jesus' words say it best (John 14:1-4) **"Let not your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you; and if I go a prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself – so that you may be where I am."** The assurance of God's love makes all of life worth living and softens the approach of death with anticipation of being with the Lord in Heaven.

In our present life we measure age by the days, months and years because we live according to the calendar. The Good News is that Heaven has no calendar. We will be **"forever with the Lord."** That means you and I will have an *ageless* life together with our Lord in Heaven.

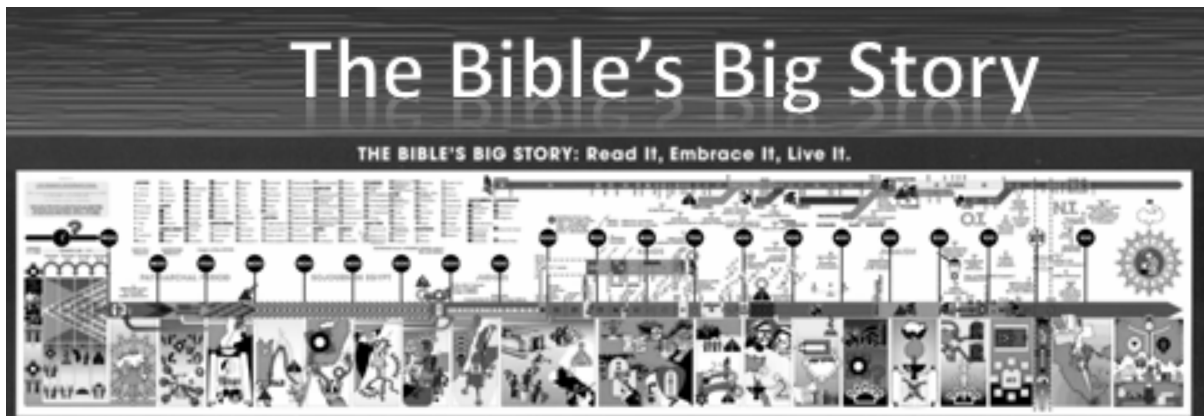
Blessings to One and All
Your Pastor Jim

Summer Adult Bible Studies

As the summer is fast approaching, and many outdoor activities get planned from picnics and Bar-B-Q's, it is important that we enjoy the rest from the normal schedule of events. But that rest ought not include a "rest FROM God's Word." Rather, the summer months can afford us time to "rest ON God's Word," in special and unique ways.

This summer, Pastor Jim is offering a variety of Bible studies that can help you grow in understanding God's Word and help you appreciate this great gift that our God has provided. As many of you already know, Pastor Jim's Bible Studies are anything but boring, but rather are fun, enjoyable and full of lots of learning. What a great way to study the Bible? Why not make use of Pastor Jim's teaching gifts and commit to summer growth in God's Word.

Below are listed the three classes Pastor Jim will conduct this summer. You may sign up for any or all of these studies. Please note that registration is required, so those proper amounts of materials are prepared. Also note, there is a cost associated with these studies which is due on the first class time. Please fill out the registration below and return it to the Church Office or give it to Pastor Jim.



In just three nights, Pastor Jim will lead you through the Bible's BIG Story – *A Time Line.*

See the complete sweep of the biblical narrative from creation to the end of time, with Jesus at the very center.

**Tuesday through Thursday
June 11 - 13, 2013**

At 1 PM or 7 PM

Register 2 Weeks Prior
Book & Time Line = \$15.00

Registration for Summer Bible Studies

Registration for Summer Bible Studies is necessary that enough materials are ordered for each participant. Registration deadline is 2 week prior to the beginning of each study. Registration costs are due at the first class. Please keep the top half of this registration form for your records, and return the bottom portion to register. Thank you.

Study #1—The Bible's Big Story

Dates: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 11-13, 2013

Times: Either at 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM Cost: \$15.00/per set of materials.

Study #2—What is the Kingdom of God?

Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23 and 24, 2013

Times: Either at 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM Cost: \$10.00/per set of materials.

Study #3—The Life of the Apostle Paul

Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6 and 7, 2013

Times: Either at 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM Cost: \$10.00/per set of materials.

Name _____ **Best Phone** _____

Please check marked the studies that will be attended, number of people attending and the number of Sets of Materials desired. Couples may share materials.

_____ **Study #1—The Bible's Big Story**

Number of people attending _____ Number of Material Sets _____

_____ **Study #2—What is the Kingdom of God?**

Number of people attending _____ Number of Material Sets _____

_____ **Study #3—The Life of the Apostle Paul**

Number of people attending _____ Number of Material Sets _____

Please Return this portion to Church Office or to Pastor Jim

What is the “Kingdom of God?”

Jesus came preaching, “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” How does the Kingdom of God show itself? Are you part of the Kingdom? Pastor Jim will lead you through a study of Jesus’ Redemptive Kingdom and Key Bible Themes of that Kingdom. It will transform your life!



Classes will be held on Tues. & Wed. July 23rd and 24th at 1 PM and 7 PM for your convenience. You will need to register for this class. Cost for the materials is \$10/set and a couple may share materials.



The LIFE of the **APOSTLE PAUL**

On Tues. & Wed.
Aug. 6th & 7th at 1 PM
and 7 PM, Pastor Jim
will lead the study of
the greatest missionary
ever seen – St. Paul!

You will need to
register for this class
and materials are
\$10/set (a couple may
share one set).



**His life, Conversion, Writings
and Missionary Journeys**